

HOW DO I RIDE THE BUS?

Wichita's Transit buses operate on what is called a fixed-route system. This means that a bus is scheduled to arrive at a certain destination point along its route at a fixed time of day. Wichita Transit has printed route maps/schedules for each of its 18 routes that are available to the public. These route maps may be obtained from this website, the downtown Transit Center at 214 S. Topeka, Wichita Transit's administrative offices at 777 E. Waterman, or by contacting Wichita Transit at 265-7221 and requesting the information be sent to you.

- The route map for each of the 17 routes shows the route the bus takes as it leaves the Transit Center (outbound) and as it returns to the Transit Center (inbound). Major stop points along the route and the buses departure times are listed on the schedules. Arrows indicate the direction the bus travels.
- Wichita Transit operates its bus routes from 5:45 AM - 6:45 PM, Monday through Friday, and from 6:45 AM - 5:45 PM on Saturdays. The downtown Transit Center is open from 6:00 AM - 6:30 PM on weekdays and 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM on Saturdays. Buses do not operate on Sundays. **Due to budgetary constraints, effective September 3, 2011, Wichita Transit will be totally shut down on all holidays.**
- Plan to be at your corner stop several minutes before the bus's scheduled arrival time.
- The fare is \$1.25, and exact change is preferred. If you don't have exact change, the farebox will issue you a change card. **This change card cannot be exchanged for cash**, but it may be used on the bus for future trips until the value is used up.

HOW TO USE A TRANSFER

Effective January 1, 2011, transfers are 25¢. Transfers are valid as long as they are used on connecting routes. [A connecting route may be described as when two or more routes cross or share common streets.] You may not use a transfer on the same route from which you received it. One transfer is good for two buses within a two-hour period.

When you board your first bus, put \$1.50 in the farebox and get a transfer. When you board the second bus, insert the transfer into the farebox; when it pops back out, take it with you. When you board the third bus, this transfer will still be good. But, when you insert the transfer into the farebox, it will pop back out, indicating it has expired. If you need to take a fourth bus, you will need to pay an additional 25¢ and request an additional transfer.

CATCHING THE BUS

You do not have to be at a bus stop, a bus bench, or a bus shelter in order to catch a bus. But, bus operators have been instructed not to pick up passengers in the middle of a block. If you're at a corner, as the bus approaches your location, check the route destination sign on the front of the bus above the windshield to be sure you're boarding the correct bus. Not only do you have to be on the corner, it is important that you are not in the turn lane because, if the bus operator is not turning, he/she will not pick up passengers there.

To flag the bus to stop, step toward the street but keep back from the curb. Make eye contact with the bus operator and raise or waive your hand. If you mistakenly flag the wrong bus, signal for the operator to continue the route. When the bus stops, if you're not sure that you are getting on the correct bus, just tell the operator where you want to go, and he or she will make sure you're on the proper route.

BOARDING THE BUS

Before you step off the curb to approach the bus, always wait until the bus has completely stopped and the driver has opened the door. You should always enter at the front door, allowing passengers to exit before you board. Use the handrail as you board the bus and remember to bring along any baggage or parcels you may have set down while you were waiting at the bus stop.

Seats at the front of the bus are normally reserved for elderly passengers and people with disabilities. If you chose to sit at the front of the bus and you could move farther towards the back of the bus or stand, please be courteous and offer to give up your seat, if necessary.

If you must stand, use the overhead handrails to steady yourself. Always stand behind the yellow lines at the front and rear doorways. Federal law prohibits the operation of any bus while passengers are located near doorways or outside the yellow "standee" lines.

HOW TO SIGNAL A STOP

When the bus approaches the block closest to your destination or transfer point, pull the bell cord located along the walls of the bus or above the aisle. A single sounding of the bell or tone will be sufficient to notify the bus operator of your intention to disembark. Multiple rings may confuse the operator and disturb other passengers.

HOW TO EXIT THE BUS

Once you have let the bus operator know you're wanting to get off the bus, wait until the bus stops completely before leaving your seat or moving towards the exit door. This will typically be the rear door of the bus. Remember to bring along any baggage or parcels you are carrying with you. Use the handrails as you exit and stay clear of the bus as it pulls away. If you plan on crossing the street after you exit the bus, always wait until the bus has completely left the stop. Remember to go to the nearest intersection or crosswalk before you cross to the opposite side of the street.

BICYCLES

Currently, there are two bike racks on the front of all Wichita Transit buses. If both are in use, it's up to the bus operator's discretion whether or not to allow you to bring your bicycle onto the bus. If the bus operator does permit you to board with a bicycle, try to sit near the rear exit. This will cause less inconvenience for the passengers boarding at the front of the bus. **REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR BIKE WHEN YOU LEAVE THE BUS!**